



Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council

Chairman
William Taylor
Past President
American Fisheries Society

Vice Chairman
Doug Hansen
Director
South Dakota Department of
Game, Fish and Parks

Members

James Anderson
Executive Director
Northwest Indian Fisheries
Commission

John Cooper, ex officio
President
International Association of Fish
and Wildlife Agencies

Jeffrey Crane
President
Congressional Sportsmen's
Foundation

Douglass Boyd
Board Member
Coastal Conservation Association

Monita Fontaine
Vice President for Government
Relations
National Marine Manufacturers
Association

Sheri Griffith
Chair of Public Relations
America Outdoors

Kenneth Haddad
Executive Director
Florida Fish and Wildlife
Conservation Commission

Dean Kessel
Vice President of Operations
BASS

Larry Killien
Past President
States Organization for
Boating Access

Ryck Lydecker
Assistant Vice President for
Government Affairs
BoatU.S.

John L. Morris
Founder
Bass Pro Shops

Michael Nussman
President & CEO
American Sportfishing
Association

Jim Range
Government Affairs Advocate
American Fly Fishing Trade
Association

John Sprague
Past President
Marine Industries Association
Of Florida

Carl Wilgus
Administrator
Tourism Development, Idaho

Dale Hall, ex officio
Director
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

For Immediate Release
November 8, 2005

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Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council Announces New Members; Forges Ahead with National Fish Habitat Initiative

Secretary of the Interior Gale Norton today announced new appointments and reappointments to the Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council, the leading federal advisory committee on two of America's most popular outdoor pursuits.

An eclectic mix of experts representing the interests of states, Native American tribes, federal agencies, sporting and conservation groups, and industries, the Council includes 16 members who serve two-year terms (as well as two ex officio members), making recommendations to the Interior Department through the Director of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

"With such a diverse and talented group of heavy hitters coming together on their behalf, the tens of millions of anglers and boaters in this country can rest assured their interests are in good hands," said U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director Dale Hall. "The Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council provides an invaluable exchange of expertise and perspectives that continually improves policies and programs affecting conservation and outdoor recreation."

New appointments to the Council are: **Jeffrey Crane**, President of the Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation; **Larry Killien**, Past President of the States Organization for Boating Access; **Michael Nussman**, President and CEO of the American Sportfishing Association; and **John Sprague**, Past President of the Marine Industries Association of Florida. The American Fly Fishing Trade Association will be represented for the first time by **Jim Range**, the association's Government Affairs Advocate, who has served previously on the council in another capacity. **John Cooper**, President of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Director **Dale Hall**, who are both new in their respective positions, are ex officio council members by virtue of those positions.

Reappointments to the Council are: **William Taylor**, Past President of the American Fisheries Society, who will serve as Chairman; **Doug Hansen**, Director of the Division of Wildlife for the South Dakota Department of Game, Fish and Parks, who will serve as Vice Chairman; **James Anderson**, Executive Director of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission; **Douglass Boyd**, Board Member of the Coastal Conservation Association; **Monita Fontaine**, Vice President for Government Relations for the National Marine Manufacturers Association; **Sheri Griffith**, Chair of Public Relations for America Outdoors; **Kenneth Haddad**, Executive Director of the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission; **Dean Kessel**, Vice President of Operations for the Bass Anglers Sportsman Society; **Ryck Lydecker**, Assistant Vice

President for Government Affairs for BoatU.S.; **John Morris**, Founder of Bass Pro Shops; and **Carl Wilgus**, Administrator for Tourism Development, Idaho.

The Council agenda is heavily engaged in working with the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, and a broad coalition of other key natural resource interests, to marshal partners and resources for the National Fish Habitat Initiative, an unprecedented nationwide joint venture program to restore America's signature fisheries and waterways. The Council also will continue supporting the Fish and Wildlife Service in carrying out a comprehensive strategic plan for its Fisheries program, covering issues ranging from endangered species recovery to programs that improve fish passage on rivers. The Council is also advocating for refinements to the Fish and Wildlife Service's highly popular Boating Infrastructure Grants Program. Finally, the Council continues to work with the Recreational Boating and Fishing Foundation, a non-profit it helped create in 1998, to accomplish its mission of increasing participation in boating and angling and support for aquatic resource conservation.

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The Sport Fishing and Boating Partnership Council was formed in January 1993 to advise the Secretary of the Interior through the Fish and Wildlife Service Director about sport fishing and boating issues. The Council represents the interests of the public and private sectors of the sport fishing and boating communities and is organized to enhance partnerships among industry, constituency groups, and government. Visit the council's Web page at <http://www.fws.gov/sfbpc/>.

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The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the nearly 100-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 545 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The agency enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.

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